

Members

Sen. Patricia Miller, Chairperson
Sen. Lawrence Borst
Sen. Billie Breaux
Sen. Glenn Howard
Rep. Vanessa Summers, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Ed Mahern
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Michael Young



CENTRAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 232-9588 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Sarah Burkman, Attorney for the Committee
Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: P.L. 102-1998

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 27, 1999
Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. Patricia Miller, Chairperson; Sen. Lawrence Borst; Sen. Billie Breaux; Sen. Glenn Howard; Rep. Vanessa Summers, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Ed Mahern; Rep. Michael Young.

Members Absent: Rep. Robert Behning.

Senator Patricia Miller, Chairperson of the Central State Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. Senator Miller then asked staff to read the Committee's proposed letter in response to the Governor's report. During the reading of the proposed letter, the Committee stopped to discuss the Department of Administration's proposal to sell approximately 4.12 acres of residential property along Warman Avenue.

Sale of Residential Properties along Warman Avenue

Senator Miller asked Jay McQueen, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Administration (DOA), whether the DOA had looked into using some of the Warman Avenue properties for group homes for the mentally ill. Mr. McQueen stated that the DOA had not explored

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

this option. He agreed to report back to the Committee on this possibility.

Mr. McQueen explained that several of the properties proposed for sale are in poor condition. The DOA does not believe that it would be practical to restore these properties to a condition that would allow them to be used by the appropriate neighborhood association.

Senator Miller asked Senator Borst for his opinion concerning the sale of the Warman Avenue properties. Senator Borst responded that he would defer to the judgment of the DOA.

Senator Miller then asked Senator Breaux for her input on the sale of the properties. Senator Breaux indicated that she would rather see the properties used for group homes for the mentally ill than be sold.

Representative Mahern suggested that the properties could be leased to the appropriate neighborhood association for use by the community. He pointed out that if the state were to sell the properties, the state would no longer have control over their maintenance. There would be no guarantee that new owners would take care of the properties. He suggested that demolition would even be preferable to selling the properties.

Representative Summers stated that she would rather see the properties used for group housing or for neighborhood purposes. She indicated that she is opposed to demolishing the properties, stating that "something needs to be there" for the benefit of the community.

Senator Miller asked staff to revise the proposed letter to include the Committee's objections to the sale of the Warman Avenue properties. She also asked that the letter state the Committee's preference that the properties be used for group homes or other community purposes, or else be destroyed. Senator Miller requested the DOA to explore the option of using the properties for group homes and the option of demolishing the properties. Mr. McQueen agreed to look into both of these options and report back to the Committee.

Other Suggestions for Use of the Central State Property

Representative Mahern noted that he had seen wrecked vehicles belonging to the State Motor Pool on the far west side of the property. He stated that these vehicles gave the appearance of a junkyard and suggested that they be moved from the public's view.

Representative Mahern also proposed converting some of the dormitories into lodgings for people visiting Indianapolis on field trips. People from other parts of the state could stay at the lodgings while enjoying White River State Park and downtown Indianapolis.

Senator Howard expressed support for Representative Mahern's idea and recommended that the proposed lodgings be available for youth field trips. The dormitories could also be used to host supervised, interracial youth camps or overnight programs focusing on issues confronting today's youth, such as drugs and gangs.

Representative Young wondered whether the dormitories could be used as homeless shelters during the winter.

Senator Breaux suggested that the dormitories could be used by the community's active AmeriCorps group.

Senator Miller stated that the Committee's suggestions were all good ideas and urged the Committee to consider them further as part of the Committee's continuing work.

Approval of Letter to the Governor

The Committee then considered the proposed letter, as revised, to reflect the Committee's objections to the sale of the Warman Avenue properties and approved the letter by a roll call vote of 7-0.

Adjournment

Senator Miller announced that the Central State Advisory Committee had completed its duty of responding to the Governor's proposals and adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.